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NO. 640 RS. 35

Paurava and Alexander

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PAURAVA AND ALEXANDER

MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO, KING PAURAVA* STOOD ON THE BANK OF THE JHELUM, WATCHING HIS MEN PURSUE HIS RIVAL, AMBHI, THE KING OF TAKSHASHILA,+ WHO WAS FLEEING FROM THE BATTLEFIELD.

WHEN AMBHI WAS CAPTURED AND BROUGHT BEFORE PAURAVA —

GO BACK TO TAKSHASHILA AND DON'T COME TO THIS SIDE OF THE JHELUM AGAIN. I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF COWARDS!

PAURAVA, MARK MY WORDS: I WILL MAKE YOU BEG FOR YOUR LIFE AT THIS VERY SPOT.

SAY NO MORE! BEGONE!

*HE RULED THE TERRITORY BETWEEN THE RIVERS JHELUM AND RAVI IN PUNJAB.
+THE MODERN TAXILA IS NOW IN PAKISTAN.

WHEN HE WAS BACK AT TAKSHASHILA, AMBHI SAT BROODING OVER HIS DEFEAT.

I MUST HUMBLE PAURAVA. BUT HOW?

SOME TIME LATER AMBHI'S MINISTER REPORTED IMPORTANT NEWS TO HIM.

MY LORD, ALEXANDER, THE GREEK KING, IS PLANNING TO INVADE OUR COUNTRY. IN FACT, HE HAS COME TO THE VERY GATES OF INDIA. HE IS CAMPING AT NICAEA*

GOOD! I WILL SET THE GREEK AGAINST PAURAVA. HE WILL FIGHT MY WAR FOR ME.

AMBHI PAID A VISIT TO ALEXANDER AT NICAEA.

WHY SHOULD WE FIGHT, ALEXANDER, WHEN YOU INTEND TO TAKE AWAY FROM US NEITHER WATER NOR GRAIN?

* AN OUTPOST OUTSIDE KABUL

MY KINGDOM IS YOURS, ALEXANDER. I WELCOME YOU TO TAKSHASHILA.

I WISH ALL OTHER KINGS WOULD THINK LIKE YOU.

WHEN THE NEWS REACHED PAURAVA—

O AMBHI, DON'T YOU REALISE THAT ALEXANDER WANTS TO TAKE AWAY WHAT IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN WATER, FOOD, OR EVEN LIFE— OUR FREEDOM?

HE BEGAN PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

ALEXANDER WILL REALISE THAT FOR EVERY TRAITOR LIKE AMBHI THERE WILL BE A HUNDRED PAURAVAS TO RESIST HIM.

MEANWHILE AT NICAEA —

KING AMBHI, I HAVE DIVIDED MY ARMY INTO TWO DIVISIONS. YOU WILL LEAD THE FIRST DIVISION THROUGH THE KHYBER PASS TO THE INDUS.*

AS YOU SAY, KING ALEXANDER.

* THE RIVER SINDHU

THE FIRST DIVISION, LED BY AMBHI AND TWO TRUSTED GENERALS OF ALEXANDER, HAD AN EASY PASSAGE.

THAT'S THE RIVER SINDHU!

BUT ALEXANDER, WHO LED THE SECOND DIVISION THROUGH A DIFFERENT ROUTE, TO PROTECT THE REAR OF THE FIRST DIVISION, FACED STIFF RESISTANCE. AT MASHAKAVATI *—

WE WILL MAKE A SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE FORT AND DEMOLISH IT.

BUT THE CHIEFTAIN OF MASHAKAVATI HAD MADE PREPARATIONS TO GIVE ALEXANDER A HOT RECEPTION.

BE READY TO SHOOT.

THE NEXT MOMENT—

SHOOT!

* GREEKS REFERRED TO THIS PLACE AS MASSAGA

ALEXANDER WAS HURT IN THE ANKLE.

THE EMPEROR IS HURT!

BUT ALEXANDER WAS UNPERTURBED. HE EXTRACTED THE ARROW AND FLUNG IT AWAY.

ON WITH THE ATTACK!

THE NEXT DAY, ALEXANDER BATTERED DOWN A PART OF THE WALL BY EMPLOYING MILITARY ENGINES.

AT LAST! A BREACH!

BUT WHEN ALEXANDER'S MEN TRIED TO FORCE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE BREACH, THE SOLDIERS OF MASHAKAVATI FOUGHT SPIRITEDLY...

...AND FORCED ALEXANDER TO WITHDRAW HIS MEN.

THAT NIGHT ALEXANDER HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS OFFICERS.

THEY ARE DETERMINED NOT TO LET US ENTER THE FORT, AND THEY ARE WELL EQUIPPED TO PREVENT US.

WE'LL HAVE TO TRY A BOLDER METHOD. PUSH THE FIGHTING TOWER FORWARD. WHEN IT REACHES THE WALLS, LOWER THE BRIDGE . . .

THE NEXT DAY—

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S A BRIDGE! DESTROY IT!

BRAVING STONES AND ARROWS ALEXANDER'S MEN ADVANCED ON THE BRIDGE.

BUT THE BRIDGE COLLAPSED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE ENTHUSIASTIC GREEKS, SURGING FORWARD.

UNDAUNTED BY THIS FAILURE, ALEXANDER REPLACED THE BRIDGE WITH A NEW ONE, AND LED HIS MEN HIMSELF.

A FIERCE BATTLE WAS FOUGHT ON THE BRIDGE..

SUDDENLY THE CHIEFTAIN OF MASHAKAVATI FELL, HIT BY A MISSILE.

ALL WAS OVER. THE MERCENARIES WHO HAD SERVED THE CHIEFTAIN OF MASHAKAVATI BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALEXANDER.

I AGREE TO A TRUCE IF YOU WILL VACATE THE FORT AND JOIN MY ARMY.

WE AGREE.

THE MERCENARIES — SEVEN THOUSAND STRONG — MARCHED OUT OF THE FORT ALONG WITH THEIR WOMEN AND CHILDREN...

...AND ENCAMPED ON A SMALL HILL WHICH FACED ALEXANDER'S CAMP.

I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF FIGHTING FOR THE GREEKS.

WHY DID WE AGREE TO TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST OUR OWN PEOPLE?

LET US SLIP AWAY...

LET US GO AND FIGHT FOR PAURAVA.

THAT NIGHT THE MERCENARIES STOLE OUT.

SUDDENLY—

THE GREEKS!

FORM A RING WITH THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE MIDDLE.

HAVING LEARNT IN ADVANCE ABOUT THEIR PLAN OF ESCAPE THROUGH HIS SPIES, ALEXANDER HAD DESPATCHED HIS TROOPS.

WE CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO JOIN PORUS*. JOIN US OR FACE DEATH!

WE PREFER DEATH TO A LIFE OF COWARDICE!

* THE GREEK NAME FOR PAURAVA

AND THE MERCENARIES FELL UPON ALEXANDER'S MEN.

EVEN WOMEN TOOK UP ARMS AGAINST THE GREEKS.

IN THE END, THE MERCENARIES, MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE, MET A GLORIOUS DEATH.

BRAVE PEOPLE! I WISH THEY HAD BEEN MY FRIENDS, NOT MY FOES.

ALEXANDER RESUMED HIS MARCH AND, ON THE WAY, HE CAPTURED MANY FORTS. THE INHABITANTS OF THESE PLACES FLED.

LET US TAKE SHELTER IN VARANA.*

YES. EVEN ALEXANDER CANNOT HOPE TO TAKE VARANA.

WHEN THE GREEKS HEARD THIS —

SIR, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE AORNOS. EVEN HERCULES+ FAILED.

THEN I MUST SUCCEED! —SUCCEED WHERE THE MIGHTY HERCULES FAILED!

ALEXANDER MARCHED WITH HIS MEN.

THAT IS THE INACCESSIBLE ROCK— AORNOS. IT IS SO HIGH THAT EVEN BIRDS CANNOT FLY OVER IT.

ALEXANDER TURNED TO PTOLEMY, ONE OF HIS TRUSTED GENERALS.

PTOLEMY, TAKE YOUR MEN AND CLIMB UP. AND WHEN YOU REACH A SAFE POSITION SEND ME A SIGNAL.

*GREEKS REFER TO THIS PLACE AS AORNOS +THE GREEK DEMI-GOD WHOM ALEXANDER CLAIMED AS AN ANCESTOR

PTOLEMY LED HIS MEN ON THE DIFFICULT ROCKY ROUTE TO VARANA...

... WHILE ALEXANDER ANXIOUSLY WAITED FOR THE SIGNAL. AT LAST —

AH! THE BEACON LIGHT! PTOLEMY HAS FOUND A SECURE POSITION.

THE NEXT DAY ALEXANDER AND HIS MEN INCHED FORWARD DESPITE THE CONTINUOUS SHOWER OF ARROWS.

KEEP GOING.

AT LAST THE PEOPLE OF VARANA GAVE UP THE ATTEMPT TO DRIVE BACK THE GREEKS. WHEN ALEXANDER JOINED PTOLEMY —

TROUBLE BEGINS FROM HERE. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH THE SUMMIT.

WHAT'S STOPPING US?

THE SUMMIT ROCK IS SURROUNDED BY RAVINES...

WE WILL FILL THEM WITH WOOD AND CLIMB TO THE TOP.

AT HIS ORDER, THE SOLDIERS CUT DOWN THE TREES OF THE SURROUNDING FOREST.

MEANWHILE, HIS GENERALS APPROACHED ALEXANDER.

SIR, WE WOULD REQUEST YOU NOT TO ENDANGER YOUR LIFE BY TAKING PART IN THIS OPERATION.

I WILL TRY NOT TO.

BUT WHEN THE TRUMPETS SOUNDED GIVING THE SIGNAL TO START, ALEXANDER WAS THE FIRST ONE TO LIFT THE TRUNK OF A TREE...

...AND THROW IT INTO THE RAVINE.

HURRAH!

THE GREEKS WORKED WITHOUT REST AND ALL THE RAVINES WERE FILLED.

NOW THE ROAD TO AORNOS IS OPEN TO US.

THEN THE PEOPLE OF VARANA BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALEXANDER.

SIR, THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BUT A COVER TO ESCAPE.

LET THEM ESCAPE. WE WILL MOVE IN WHEN THEY LEAVE.

WHEN THEY FLED, ALEXANDER WAS THE FIRST TO SCALE THE ROCK AND REACH THE SUMMIT.

ALEXANDER BUILT A FORT ON THE ROCK. LEAVING SHASHI GUPTA, AN INDIAN PRINCE, IN CHARGE OF THE FORT, HE RESUMED HIS MARCH.

ALEXANDER AND HIS MEN CROSSED THE RIVER SINDHU ON A BRIDGE OF BOATS . . .

. . . AND MARCHED TOWARDS TAKSHASHILA. SUDDENLY —

LOOK! AN ARMY IS ADVANCING TOWARDS US.

THERE IS SOME MISCHIEF AFOOT. BUT WE ARE PREPARED.

IT'S AMBHI!

AMBHI, WHO HAD REACHED TAKSHASHILA LONG BEFORE ALEXANDER, RODE UP TO HIM.

ALEXANDER, MY ENTIRE ARMY IS YOURS.

FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT YOU HAD BROUGHT YOUR ARMY TO ATTACK ME!

NOT I. PERHAPS PAURAVA MIGHT TRY.

I HOPE HE WON'T TRY THE IMPOSSIBLE. I WILL SEND HIM A MESSAGE.

AFTER SENDING AN ENVOY TO PAURAVA, ALEXANDER WAITED AT TAKSHASHILA FOR A REPLY. HIS MEN WELCOMED THE RESPITE FROM LONG MARCHES AND BATTLES AND AMUSED THEMSELVES IN SPORTS AND RECREATION.

ONE DAY—

ONESICRITUS, I WOULD LIKE TO MEET THE SAGES AND PHILOSOPHERS OF THIS COUNTRY.

I HEAR THAT DANDAMIS* IS A GREAT SAGE IN TAKSHASHILA. I WILL ASK HIM TO COME AND MEET YOU.

* THE GREEK NAME OF AN INDIAN SAGE

ONESICRITUS CALLED ON SAGE DANDAMIS.

O GREAT TEACHER, KING ALEXANDER WISHES TO MEET YOU. HE IS THE SOVEREIGN LORD OF ALL MEN...

GOD IS THE CREATOR OF LIGHT, OF PEACE AND OF LIFE. HE ALONE IS THE LORD IN MY ESTIMATION AND HE ABHORS SLAUGHTER AND WAR.

O SAGE, IF YOU CALL ON KING ALEXANDER HE WILL REWARD YOU WITH SPLENDID GIFTS...

HIS GIFTS HAVE NO USE FOR ME. I HAVE THESE LEAVES WHICH ARE MY HOUSE...

...THESE TREES WHICH NOURISH ME WITH THEIR FRUIT. YONDER STREAM QUENCHES MY THIRST. MOTHER EARTH GIVES ME EVERYTHING. I HAVE NO NEED FOR ALEXANDER.

BUT IF YOU DON'T GO TO HIM, O SAGE, KING ALEXANDER WILL BEHEAD YOU.

HE MAY DO SO. BUT HE CANNOT DESTROY MY SOUL.

YOUR THREATS ARE POWERLESS AGAINST US ASCETICS, SINCE WE NEITHER LOVE GOLD NOR FEAR DEATH.

TELL ALEXANDER THAT HE HAS NOTHING TO OFFER ME AND, THEREFORE, I WON'T GO TO HIM. BUT IF HE WANTS ANY-THING FROM ME, HE MAY COME TO ME.

ON RECEIVING ONESICRITUS' REPORT ALEXANDER HIMSELF WENT TO DANDAMIS.

I, THE GREAT CONQUEROR, HAVE FOUND MORE THAN MY MATCH IN THIS ASCETIC.

THE SAGE AND THE CONQUEROR HELD MANY PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS.

MEANWHILE ALEXANDER'S ENVOY HAD REACHED PAURAVA'S COURT.

O KING, ALEXANDER WANTS YOU TO PAY HIM TRIBUTE. HE WANTS TO MEET YOU AT YOUR FRONTIER.

PAURAVA SMILED.

I WILL CERTAINLY MEET ALEXANDER BUT I WILL COME ARMED FOR BATTLE.

TRUE TO HIS WORD, PAURAVA MARCHED TO THE BANKS OF THE JHELUM.

GOOD! THE RIVER IS IN SPATE! ALEXANDER WILL HAVE A PROBLEM CROSSING IT.

WHEN ALEXANDER ARRIVED WITH HIS MEN ON THE OPPOSITE BANK OF THE RIVER—

SIR, HOW SHALL WE CROSS? THE RIVER IS IN SPATE!

THE RIVER DOES NOT WORRY ME. PORUS DOES. I WILL HAVE TO THINK OF SOME WAY.

THAT NIGHT PAURAVA HEARD A LOUD CLAMOUR.

ALEXANDER IS ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE RIVER!

EVEN AS PAURAVA RUSHED OUT OF HIS TENT, HIS GENERALS JOINED HIM.

MY LORD, THE GREEKS ARE MARCHING DOWNSTREAM. WE CAN HEAR THE NOISE.

THEN OUR MEN WILL MARCH IN THE DIRECTION OF THE NOISE, ON THIS SIDE OF THE RIVER.

PAURAVA LED HIS MEN OUT.

THEY ARE MAKING A TERRIFIC NOISE, BUT NO ATTEMPT TO CROSS.

THEY DARE NOT, NOW THAT WE ARE HERE.

PAURAVA RETURNED TO HIS CAMP.

SEVERAL TIMES PAURAVA LED OUT HIS MEN ONLY TO FIND THAT THE GREEKS WERE NOT SO MUCH INTERESTED IN ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE RIVER AS IN UTTERING WAR CRIES. HE TURNED TO HIS GENERAL.

NO PURPOSE WILL BE SERVED IN KEEPING TRACK OF THE GREEKS EVERY TIME THEY MARCH OUT. ALERT THE ARMY ONLY WHEN THEY ACTUALLY ATTEMPT TO CROSS OVER TO THIS SIDE.

A FEW DAYS LATER AT ALEXANDER'S CAMP —

PORUS NO LONGER MAKES ANY COUNTER MOVEMENT WHEN OUR MEN MARCH OUT.

GOOD, KRATEROS. WE HAVE LULLED HIS SUSPICIONS.

THAT NIGHT—

THE ADVANCE PARTY HAS REACHED ITS DESTINATION. THE BOATS ARE KEPT IN READINESS.

GOOD. I WILL TAKE 12,000 MEN WITH ME. WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE WITH CARE. PORUS SHOULD NOT SUSPECT ANYTHING.

ALEXANDER MARCHED WITH HIS MEN UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS ...

... AND REACHED THE PLACE, SIXTEEN MILES AWAY, WHERE HE INTENDED TO CROSS. FORTUNATELY FOR HIM AT THAT MOMENT A THUNDERSTORM BROKE OUT.

FORTUNE SMILES ON US. THE THUNDER WILL DROWN THE NOISE WE MAKE WHILE CROSSING.

ALEXANDER USED RAFTS COVERED WITH HIDE TO CROSS THE RIVER.

THE GREEKS LANDED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER. IT CONTINUED TO RAIN. MANY SOLDIERS FELL DEAD, STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

AS THEY MARCHED FORWARD BRAVING RAIN, THUNDER AND LIGHTNING—

WHAT! A STREAM AGAIN!

BUT ALEXANDER MANAGED TO FIND A SHALLOW PART OF THE STREAM AND HE AND HIS MEN FORDED IT.

MEANWHILE PAURAVA WAS WAITING IN HIS CAMP.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALEXANDER'S STRATEGY. DOES HE INTEND TO CROSS THE RIVER AFTER WINTER SETS IN?

THEN A SOLDIER RUSHED IN.

MY LORD, WE SAW THE GREEKS CROSSING THE RIVER NEAR THE PLAIN SIXTEEN MILES FROM HERE.

WHAT!

PAURAVA SENT FOR HIS SON.

RUSH TO THE PLAIN WITH YOUR MEN. ALEXANDER MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO ADVANCE FURTHER.

I WILL START AT ONCE, FATHER.

PAURAVA'S SON RODE WITH HIS MEN. SUDDENLY—

QUICKSAND! STOP!

EVEN AS THE HORSE SANK, THE RIDER LEAPED TO SAFETY.

WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE A DETOUR.

THUS THE PRINCE WAS DELAYED IN REACHING THE PLAIN. BY THEN ALEXANDER'S MEN HAD ALL CROSSED OVER.

HERE COME THE FORCES OF PORUS. BE READY.

THE TWO ARMIES MET.

THE PRINCE HAS BEEN KILLED.

LET US FLEE!

THEN PAURAVA HIMSELF MARCHED TO THE PLAIN WITH A HUGE ARMY.

ALEXANDER WAS IMPRESSED BY PAURAVA'S BATTLE FORMATION.

I SEE THAT AT LAST I HAVE MET MY MATCH. STILL, I WILL DEVISE A STRATEGY THAT WILL TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE.

ALEXANDER SENT HIS MOUNTED ARCHERS AGAINST PAURAVA'S LEFT WING.

THE MEN ON PAURAVA'S RIGHT WING BECAME EXCITED.

THE GREEKS ARE ATTACKING OUR LEFT WING!

LET US GO TO THEIR SUPPORT.

AS PAURAVA'S RIGHT WING SWUNG OVER TO THE LEFT —

BE QUICK KOINOS, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE.

THE GREEKS UNDER KOINOS SWEPT PAST THE FRONT OF PAURAVA'S ARMY, GALLOPED ROUND ITS RIGHT WING...

...AND ATTACKED FROM THE REAR.

THE GREEKS!

DON'T PANIC! FIGHT, MY MEN.

IT HAD RAINED HEAVILY THE NIGHT BEFORE. PAURAVA'S ARCHERS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO REST THEIR LONG BOWS ON THE SLIPPERY GROUND.

OH GOD! WHAT A DAY TO CHOOSE FOR A BATTLE!

IF ONLY IT HAD NOT RAINED LAST NIGHT!

BUT PAURAVA'S SPIRIT WAS NOT DAMPENED. AS HE CHARGED FORTH, THE GREEKS WERE TRAMPLED DOWN BY HIS ELEPHANTS...

...AND THEIR CHARIOTS WERE BROKEN.

THE GREEKS BECAME PANICKY AT THE SIGHT OF THE ELEPHANTS.

STAB THE BEASTS! KILL THEIR RIDERS!

THE ELEPHANTS STABBED BY THE GREEKS BEGAN TO RUN AMUCK AND PAURAVA'S MEN FELL VICTIM TO THEIR OWN ENRAGED ELEPHANTS.

PAURAVA CONTINUED TO FIGHT, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL OF HIS MEN PANICKED AND DESERTED HIM.

WHEN PAURAVA WAS ABOUT TO FAINT BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF WOUNDS HE HAD RECEIVED . . .

. . . HIS ELEPHANT GENTLY LOWERED ITSELF . . .

WILL HE SURRENDER?

. . . AND QUIETLY EXTRACTED THE DARTS FROM HIS BODY WITH ITS TRUNK.

UNBELIEVABLE!

PAURAVA PATTED HIS FAITHFUL ELEPHANT.

ON YOUR FEET, FRIEND. I AM NOW READY TO FIGHT AGAIN.

THE NEXT MOMENT THE ELEPHANT WAS ON ITS FEET AND PAURAVA BEGAN TO HURL DARTS AT THE GREEKS.

ALEXANDER WATCHED THE DESPERATE FIGHT PUT UP BY PAURAVA.

HE IS ONE OF THE BRAVEST MEN I HAVE EVER KNOWN. HOW LONG WILL HE CONTINUE TO FIGHT US? HE MUST BE SAVED.

ALEXANDER TURNED TO AMBHI WHO WAS BY HIS SIDE.

GO TO PORUS AND ASK HIM TO SURRENDER.

AMBHI TURNED HIS HORSE TOWARDS PAURAVA.

THIS IS THE HAPPIEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE. I WILL SEE MY HATED ENEMY HUMBLED.

O PAURAVA, SURRENDER TO ALEXANDER...

WOUNDED AS HE WAS, PAURAVA LIFTED HIS HUGE JAVELIN.

YOU COWARD!

THE JAVELIN MISSED AMBHI AS HE GALLOPED AWAY.

THEN MEROES, AN OLD FRIEND, CAME TO PAURAVA.

PAURAVA, TAKE THE OUTCOME OF THE WAR SPORTINGLY. MEET ALEXANDER.

PAURAVA DISMOUNTED.

GET ME SOME WATER FIRST.

I WILL GET IT AT ONCE.

PAURAVA REFRESHED HIMSELF WITH THE WATER . . .

. . . AND THEN TURNED TO MEROES.

NOW TAKE ME TO ALEXANDER.

WHEN ALEXANDER WAS INFORMED OF PAURAVA'S DECISION—

I WILL GO AND RECEIVE HIM.

ALEXANDER DREW REIN, WHEN HE SAW PAURAVA WALKING TOWARDS HIM.

HE IS ADVANCING AS ONE BRAVE MAN WOULD TOWARDS ANOTHER, AFTER A GALLANT FIGHT.

ALEXANDER DISMOUNTED AND APPROACHED PAURAVA.

O PORUS, TELL ME HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED?

TREAT ME, ALEXANDER, AS BEFITS A KING.

ALEXANDER WAS IMPRESSED BY PAURAVA'S REPLY.

I WILL, BUT DON'T YOU NEED ANY-THING ELSE?

EVERYTHING IS INCLUDED IN WHAT I HAVE ASKED FOR, ALEXANDER.

PORUS, I RESTORE YOUR KINGDOM TO YOU AND ADD THE SURROUNDING TERRITORY TO YOUR STATE.

I WANT YOU AS MY ALLY.

ALEXANDER, I HAVE LOST A BATTLE BUT WON A FRIEND.

ALEXANDER'S AMBITION OF INCLUDING PUNJAB AND SIND IN HIS EMPIRE WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE, THESE LANDS BEING TOO FAR AWAY FROM GREECE. BUT HIS CAMPAIGN PAVED THE WAY FOR FUTURE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GREECE AND INDIA.

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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

Illustrated Classics From India

Paurava & Alexander

When Alexander, the great Macedonian conqueror, invaded India in 327 B.C., the various kingdoms and republics of the North-West failed to forge a united front against the common enemy. Some rulers, like Ambhi, submitted without resistance, while others, like Paurava and the chief of Massaga, refused to bow to Alexander even when defeat seemed certain.

In King Paurava, Alexander had met his match, yet he managed to overpower him. He was also helped by the weather: the heavy rain on the day before the battle had made the earth wet, making it difficult for Paurava's able archers to rest their bows on the slippery ground.

Nineteen Greek writers, who either accompanied Alexander or visited India soon after the invasion, wrote accounts of Alexander's match. Based on these early records, Arrian (first century A.D.) wrote his biography of the Macedonian conqueror. This and other works by Curtius, Diodoros, Plutarch and Justin describe Alexander's invasion but there is no detailed Indian source that traces Alexander's movements in India with precision or to identify the tribes he encountered in the course of his arduous march.

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